Volume 4, No. 8 • March 14, 1997

# Nation

## LEGEND

THE QUEST FOR SUMMER

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ANDREW NATACHEQUAN

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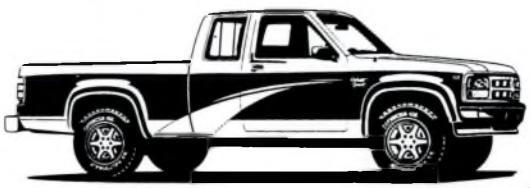

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# DRUM UP THE VOTE

Mr. Mercredi, you're proposing that I vote against the Liberals. Who do you suggest I vote for? The Reform party? The Natural Law Party? Or how about the Tories? Wait, wait how about the Bloc? Pretty good choice, eh? Who are you voting for? It is like choosing, to use a residential school reference, whether one wants a strap across the hands, up the backside or across the face. Either way it's going to hurt. None of these parties or their leaders represent my political beliefs or goals, in fact most of them are going against them. I think you also said you want us to slow down traffic on the Trans Canada Highway or something to that effect. I think we can do better than that. Our people have spent enough time on the street. Or in jail. It is time to move the battleground.

I HAVE SEEN THE ENEMY, IT IS ME.

Our political evolution has yet to catch up to the spiritual evolution that has been going on. There is a so-called canvas ceiling blocking many bright young aboriginal people. The canvas ceiling takes on many forms. The one I'm adressing now is the one which leaves us politically impotent. The young people don't see themselves as participants in the political process. There is a fortress of lawyers and consultants keeping the young people out and the powers that be in. That has to change. You say you have requested a meeting with Jean Chretien for the past three years to no avail. The royal commission which cost fifty odd million... is being shelved. Suprise, suprise. Let's have another commission to look into it. Just kidding. You also say there is a potential for violence. The youth, the people don't belong on the roads. They shouldn't be called on to slow down traffic on the highway. That is both dangerous and politically ineffective. Blocking roads does have its place, but there is a law of diminishing returns. We have to invest more into education. That brings immeasurable returns. I want you to call the road action off. Our youth are in school, many have already finished. Are they taking law, political science, etc. and getting their degrees only to stand on the street or highway with a blowhorn. I don't think so. There is a potential for violence only if we do nothing. I want you to issue another call. I want you to call on the people again, but with a different message. With this being your last term as Grand Chief, you can expand the arena where our politcal battles are fought. Announce your candidacy for Prime Minister and give us a real alternative to the Liberals. Give us a reason to vote. Field candidates for all the different ridings. Get the young and old alike involved. For those who say it is not our system to participate in, what are we to do in the mean time? Wash our bandanas for the next blocade? As the Mtv crowd says, rock the vote. We say, Drum up the vote. If we can get at least one seat, that is a beginning. It will also get your meeting with Jean Chretien just about every day. As the Bloc says it is one more way to achieve our goals. While you're at it... One person one vote for the political process within the AFN. (But that is another editorial.)

**by Ernest Webb**

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COVER PHOTO:
Andrew Natachequan
Photo by Neil Diamond
Cover design: Katerina Cizek

**The man with Sarah Rupert, Rachelle Lafond, George Bselis, Nian Bobbish, Leona Shem (hidden) Leslie Sealhunter,Francois Bobbish and Felicity Fanjoy.**

Sometimes I wonder if we Crees really do live in a democracy. You hear about Crees being denied their paychecks unless they vote in a referendum. Other Native people who can't even vote for their choice of National Chief. Powerful chiefs bulldozing resolutions through while other "chieves" sit by and wait till later to say or do anything. Others waving cash on election day. It's so disgusting I'm thinking of contacting the **Roslin** Institute (yes, there probably is a relation), having myself cloned and letting my double deal with it while I lie back and watch the whole sh*thouse go up in flames. But the thing is my double would probably feel the same way and then he'd want a clone. It would never stop. So cloning really is no solution. Wait a minute, how about cloned geese, that would solve the goose problem we've been having these past few years. We'll have to ask the Elders and maybe the Roslin Institute before we do anything of course.

Here is a tale of hope from our shores. The **St. Thomas** Church in Moose Factory avoided another disaster just weeks ago. A wedding party had left the candles burning after the ceremony. The next day some Elders on their way to worship opened the door and smoke billowed out. Thus the church was saved. Years ago, before most people living now were born, the church actually floated away during the spring thaws. Believe it or not, *Ripley's Believe It Or Not* proclaimed St. Thomas the holiest church in the world. The church has holes with stoppers in them. They would take out the stoppers during a flood so it wouldn't float down to they bay. I don't know if it ever came to that, though.

What was the name of that guy who parked his new truck with a racing snowmachine in the back and left it running outside a well-known exotic dance bar in Chibougamau. He came out "minutes" later and it was gone. It had been abducted. There's a lesson in there somewhere.

Overheard: "Clone **Matthew**. One can be Grand Chief and the other National Chief."

Cover Photo: Yes, we know the machine on our last cover was a Bombardier. And we know it was a Polaris™ that won "The Raid des Braces." For those whose brand loyalties were offended, we apologize.

Our celebrity photo contest has become a monster. We have **Preston Manning** with several students from Waswanipi in Ottawa. **Ovide Mercredi** with **Rodica Ungureanu**. There's also another one in the mail. We have yet to decide on the deadline or the prize. But please, keep them coming. I'm sure it'll be a great prize. We'll discuss it further should you win.

**Ndiamon**


the Nation

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**Chief Abel Bosum slams league's response to racist remarks by coach.**

# TWO-GAME SUSPENSION "A JOKE": CHIEF

by Alex Roslin

Val d'Or minor hockey coach Yvanhoé Bélisle has been suspended for two games for making racist comments against Native youth.

The punishment drew an outcry from Crees who said it's not enough. Chief Bosum said the decision sends a message that racism is okay. "I think it's a joke. I think it's a big joke. This is ridiculous," he said.

"I thought they would at least give him the maximum for this type of racist remarks (i.e. expulsion). They were very deliberate. You only use the word Cawich when referring to Native people," said the chief.

"It's as if it's no big deal. Two games. What does that tell you? It doesn't give any message. It tells you that this committee doesn't find it serious enough for an adult to attack a youth."

The punishment was handed down at a Feb. 25 hearing of the disciplinary committee of the Bantam CC League of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Statements at the hearing, held in Val d'Or, were made by Bélisle, Chief Abel Bosum, father of one of the players targeted by Bélisle, and officials of the Chibougamau-Chapais Bantam CC team.

Bélisle made the racist remarks after a heated game between the Val d'Or and Chibougamau-Chapais teams before Christmas. According to Jerry Poirier, manager of the Chibougamau-Chapais team, Bélisle screamed: "F**ing savages (Cawich). I'm going to find some AA players and we will destroy the f**ing savages (Cawich)."

In an interview, Bélisle offered a slightly different version of his remarks. "Your guy is a f**ing savage," he claims to have said. He denies the statement was racist or targeted at any player, Native or non-Native.

Louis Bigué, chair of the disciplinary committee, said the remarks are unacceptable and that the two-week suspension is just a "partial decision." More disciplinary measures will be announced in a week.

"It's obvious that the disciplinary committee does not share the statements at all. At all," emphasized Bigué. "We do not accept them at all."

Gérald MacDonald, president of the Bantam CC League, initiated disciplinary hearings only after receiving an angry letter about the incident from Chief Bosum. "At first, I didn't think it was so grave," he said. The letter changed his mind. It included a threat that Cree chiefs may consider moving the Cree hockey tournaments out of Val d'Or if nothing were done about Bélisle.

Bosum said the two tournaments each pump $3 to $4 million into Val d'Or's economy, and that the two-game suspension will make Crees wonder if they are appreciated in the city. "Definitely, I think there's going to have to be some very serious thinking by the Crees and how they conduct their business in the region. It's like taking your money and spitting in your face," he said.

After seeing Bosum's letter, Val d'Or Mayor Ronald Tétrault sent a letter to the chief, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and *The Nation* condemning Bélisle's remarks (see page 6).

# CO-OP STORE TO OPEN IN MISTISSINI

by William Nicholls

A while ago, Mistissini refused to give Northern Stores a grant to renovate and upgrade the store in that community. Soon after Northern Stores closed down its Mistissini outlet.

Since then Mistissini-ites have had to go out of the community to get furniture, clothing, hardware, toys and other dry goods. That will change March 20.

Don MacLeod, Mistissini's local economic development officer, was happy to tell *The Nation* about the community's new co-op store. "Chisasibi already has co-op store and members enjoy the benefits it brings both to the community and members. Mistissini band members at numerous meetings have requested that a store to fill Northern's shoes was a community priority," said MacLeod.

When Mistissini first thought of getting a co-op store they thought of approaching Rona, but learned that Rona already had a deal going with Ferlac and they felt they would be competing with themselves. Ferlac and Western, the two Chibougamau businesses that have benefited from the lack of a dry goods store in Mistissini, are a little worried about the new competition, says MacLeod.

After the no-go with Rona, Mistissini approached Cotter Canada, representing about 500 individual businesses across Canada, who banded together to increase their buying power to achieve high volume discounts. This organization has been around about five years and Mistissini is glad to count on their expertise in training and business. Cotter Canada was first noticed by Lawrence Jimikin, who was also looking at the possibility of opening a co-op in Nemaska. Waswanipi and Ouje-Bougoumou are also looking into the idea of co-op stores in their communities.

Mistissini's co-op is located in the same building that Northern Stores wanted Mistissini to renovate with a grant of about $700,000. Mistissini has done the renovations for a little under $400,000. The new co-op plans to sell clothing and footwear, furniture and household supplies, hardware and sporting goods, auto parts and accesso-

continued on page 9

## Chiefly ploy?

**Letter to *The Nation*:**

I am writing to you from Wemindji. As you may have heard, we had a referendum two weeks ago concerning approval of loans for housing and a casino (Internet) in our community.

The only thing that burns me about the referendum is that we had a referendum before the election for Chief in Wemindji. And that referendum was whether or not we should build a bar or social club in our community, and the side that voted yes for the bar won by a landslide.

The thing that burns me is that nothing was ever done with the bar, and I have heard the Chief say, quote, "As long as I am Chief in Wemindji, there will be no bar." Why did he say that after the election when he was re-elected, and why did he even have a referendum about a bar in the first place (before the election). A ploy? I do not know.

The final thing is why should we waste our time voting in another referendum (people of Wemindji) for the loan and casino when it probably doesn't even actually matter one way or the other. The band will probably do whatever it wants anyway.

**A concerned and baffled citizen of Wemindji**

## Mayor condemns racist remarks

**Open letter to Chief Abel Bosum:**

I have just been informed of an incident that occurred after a hockey game between Chibougamau-Chapais and a Val d'Or team of the Bantam CC Category.

Referring to a letter that you wrote to Mr. Gerald McDonald, president of the Bantam CC hockey league, that was also published in the magazine "The Nation" concerning Val d'Or coach Ivanhoe Bélisle.

Mr. Bosum, I disavow and condemn without reserve such conduct and racist language. In the name of the Val d'Or population I excuse myself toward you and all aboriginal communities. The isolated action of one individual does not reflect in any way the attitude of the Val d'Or citizens and the aboriginal people.

I have asked the president of the Val d'Or hockey association to take severe and appropriate disciplinary action against Mr. Ivanhoe Bélisle so that such action will not reoccur.

Hoping that this is to your satisfaction, Sir accept my best regards.

**Ronald Tétrault, Mayor, Val d'Or**

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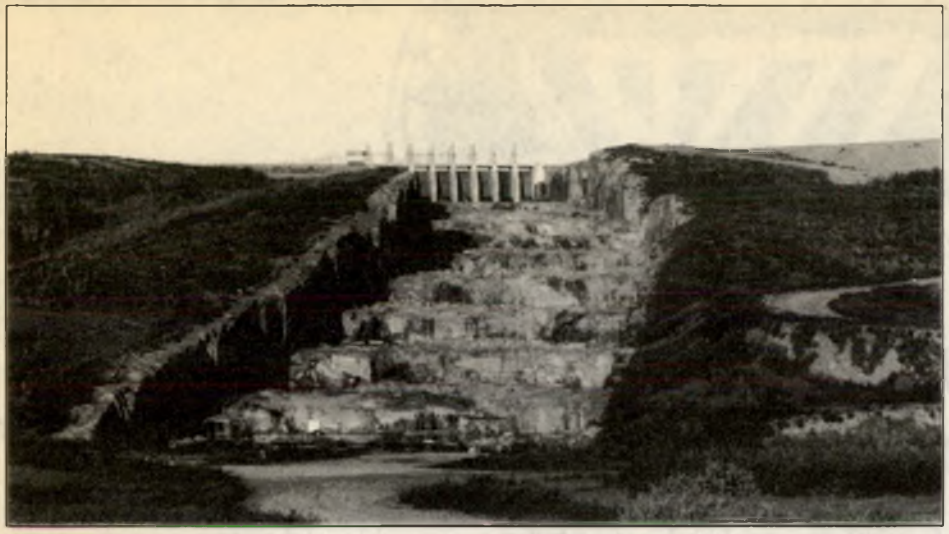

# James Bay, we have a problem

It sure gets crazy around here in *The Nation* office sometimes. We were hot on the trail of NASA last week, when suddenly we found ourselves asking the question: Just how safe are the dams?

Have you ever wondered what you would do if one of the dams broke? Is there a plan for getting everyone to safety?

What does NASA have to do with the dams, you ask? It turns out that NASA facility everyone is curious about at LG-1 is there to study the post-Ice Age "rebound" of the land. Or so we were told. Don't ask me why they have a telescope mounted on top.

Anyway, our question was: Is "rebound" of the land a danger to the dams? Apparently, it is not. But in the course of our investigation, we have learned a few other interesting things. Considering all the problems with floods we've seen in Quebec recently, there's surprisingly little information available to the public about the safety of the dams or emergency situations.

Which isn't very reassuring considering that Hydro-Quebec's attempts to harvest nature have not always gone as predicted. Many unforeseen problems arose for HQ when its La Grande reservoirs were first filling up years ago. During construction of LG-1, HQ was forced to make a major last-minute redesign because of the instability of the clay bed of the river.

What's more, the massive quantities of water in the reservoirs create such a weight that minor earthquakes have been reported as the land underneath sinks. It is so heavy, in fact, that the rotation of the Earth may be slowed and the day could be lengthened by a fraction of a second. Even more incredibly, the distance between the Earth and the Moon may be changed!

Hydro has never released to the Crees its studies of the safety of the dams. Communication is actually non-existent with the Crees on day-to-day issues of dam safety and security.

The lack of communication is so bad that when the reservoirs were first filled up, at least one trapper from Eastmain awoke to find water flooding into his teepee!

As we saw during last summer's flood disaster in the Saguenay, planning for emergencies isn't just an academic exercise. In the Saguenay, emergency studies were also not made public to residents. The dam operators didn't want to cause a "panic." The result was no one had any idea how to react when the unthinkable happened.

One region where Hydro-Quebec has made public some of its "dam-failure" studies is the Lower North Shore, near Sept-Iles. It is said, for example, that a "total failure" in the Outardes-Manicouagan dam complex would create a massive tidal wave so big it would sweep clear across the St. Lawrence River, which is 75 kilometres wide at that point, and crash into the other shore.

Chief Charles Bobbish of Chisasibi said he was peppered with questions about the safety of the dams after the Saguenay floods, but didn't have any answers: "What are we supposed to do? The questions are being asked. I didn't know what to say. I guess that information still has to reach my desk."

Alan Penn, scientific advisor to the Cree Regional Authority, said Crees have been shut out not only of information, but input into dam management so it's less damaging to the environment. "Everything is perfect in Hydro-Quebec's mind. They very rarely admit anything is wrong with the dams," he said.

As of press time, no response from HQ to our call.

by Alex Roslin

## Moral "low ebb" for Canada

Canada has been condemned by a government-appointed commission for the way it took land away from a First Nation in the Prairies.

"Not only did Canada fail to protect the Band from sharp and predatory practices," says the Indian Claims Commission.

"Canada itself initiated these tainted dealings. Indian Affairs officials used their power and influence to pry valuable and viable lands away from the people of Kahkewistahaw, lands the government had been after for two decades," the Commission says in a report, which accuses the government of having "exploited" the First Nation.

"In our view, this event marks a moral low ebb in the relationship between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Canadians on the western Prairies."

Indian Affairs pressured the people of Kahkewistahaw to give up their lands for 22 years. The First Nation always turned down the offers of cash and other promises, until the winter of 1907 when the people's resolve was weakened by illness and the need for rations. Disease and starvation had already helped reduce the population from 365 to 84 in the 30 years since the First Nation had signed Treaty 4.

The surrender resulted in Kahkewistahaw, located 130 kilometres east of Regina, losing close to three-quarters of its land. They were left with the worst land, completely unsuited to cultivation.

The Commission recommends that the government take responsibility for what happened and resolve the issue "in a just and fair manner."

## Gold, gold, everywhere gold

There's gold in them thar hills. Another mining outfit has struck gold in Iyiyuuschii.

GéoNova reports it has bought the resources of the Chevrier project, south of Chibougamau, with its 600,000 ounces of gold. The project is being called one of the largest gold finds in Quebec.

Last January, Montreal-based GéoNova announced another gold project, a 260,000-ounce find at the Desjardins

continued on page 9

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continued from page 7

project north of Level-sur-Quévillon.

"The future looks bright for our shareholders," said the company in a communiqué.

## Dedicated to the hunters

The Briefs Dept. interrupts your normally scheduled Briefs to bring you this story we received from **J. Snowboy**:

A hunter stands before a lake, to his back a vast wilderness. To see such beauty brings joy to his heart, as he sets up his tent or teepee. He thinks of the game he'll hunt, remembering not to kill too much. For he's thinking of his return year or the year after that. Oh how he loves the bush, not forgetting what his parents and grandparents taught him. To love and respect the land.

A hunter stands before a lake. To his back what used to be a vast wilderness is now bare and stripped of the beauty of trees. It brings tears to his eyes with a heavy heart in remembrance of the times his family used to hunt. The traditional hunting ground is no longer good to hunt there. The game has disappeared along with the trees.

*Dedicated to the hunters who lost their hunting grounds to clearcutting or logging. Losing your hunting to forest fires is devastating, but logging... It's a shame what the white man has done.*

## Bears take 1st in tournament

News from the front lines of hockeydom. Our boys on the Bantam CC Cree Nation Bears brought home a first-place victory from a tournament in LaSarre February 6 to 9.

The Bears powered over Ville Marie in the final game with a 3-1 win. In previous games, they beat Val d'Or 7-3, Timmins 9-0 and lost to Ville Marie 7-2. In action earlier this season, the Bears also won in a tournament in St. Bruno-ge-Guigues.

Excellent playing by Reginald Gilpin won him two MVP Awards from these two tournaments. Lance Blacksmith won the Best Defense award in the St. Bruno tourney. Congratulations to all the players and team staff on an excellent first season so far! The team will be playing at another tournament in Buckingham (Hull) Feb. 28 to March 2. Go Bears.

**Bantam CC Cree Nation Bears, 1st-place in St. Bruno-de-Guigues.**

## Sisters need home

Sisters Bella (10 years old) and Daisy Rose (aged 2) need a foster home for at least a year.

Bella is a sociable child who likes to clown and enjoys interacting with adults and peers. She likes school and has a variety of interests including drawing, soccer, basketball, hockey and tennis. Bella has kept much of the pain of separating from her parents inside. She will need help in expressing her feelings.

Daisy Rose is a happy child on the surface who plays with bricks, signs, laughs a lot and is easy-going. While saying "no" frequently, she does not really mean it. There is an underlying fearfulness as if she is unsure of what she is allowed to do. She will drag you to the refrigerator to show you what she wants.

While not presently seeing their father, the girls spend weekends with their mother and talk to her daily on the phone. Foster parents will need to be understanding of the losses in their lives and accept regular contact with mom.

On-reserve and off-reserve applicants will be considered. For more info please call Homes For Children: (514) 937-9581.

## Correction

In our last issue, we reported that "almost 75 per cent" of the population of Wemindji is on welfare. The person we were quoting meant to say that almost 75 per cent are on some kind of social assistance or other. After a phone call disputing this number, we made some calls to find out the real number. Of 389 families in town, 54 received welfare as of March 1, 140 were on the Income Security Program for trappers and several families were receiving Unemployment Insurance (we couldn't find out exactly how many in time). That makes 55 to 70 per cent depending on the number on UI.

## Mistissini co-op...

**cont'd from p.5**

ries, etc., as well as being the local post office. It will have seven full-time and two part-time staff. Anyone can be a member at a cost of $200.

To start up the co-op, Mistissini received money from the band, Aboriginal Business Canada, loans, a line of credit from James Bay Eeyou Corporation and membership fees. Estimates put the first year's revenue at $1.5 million.

"In order for local businesses to survive, people in the communities have to shop there. That way money stays in the local economy helping to build our economy," said MacLeod. "We Crees have to start looking this seriously, supporting our own businesses for the better of all. I don't mean to say that Crees won't be competitive, we'll definitely be that, but remember: every time a dollar is spent in our community it goes towards salaries of local residents and is turned around. Money spent outside is gone and helps out another economy. Buy Cree!"

For information on membership contact Buckley Petawabano or Donald MacLeod at (418) 923-3461.

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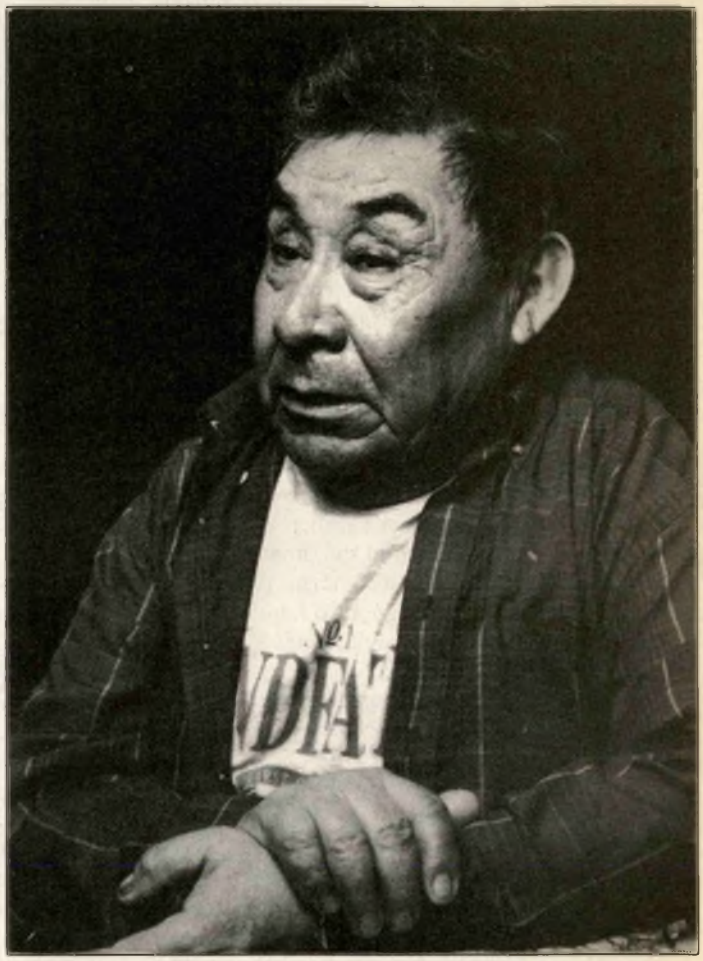
## ᐊᓐᑎᓵ ᓄᑦᓱᒃᑲᓐ ᐊᖏᑎᑎᓵᖏᑦ



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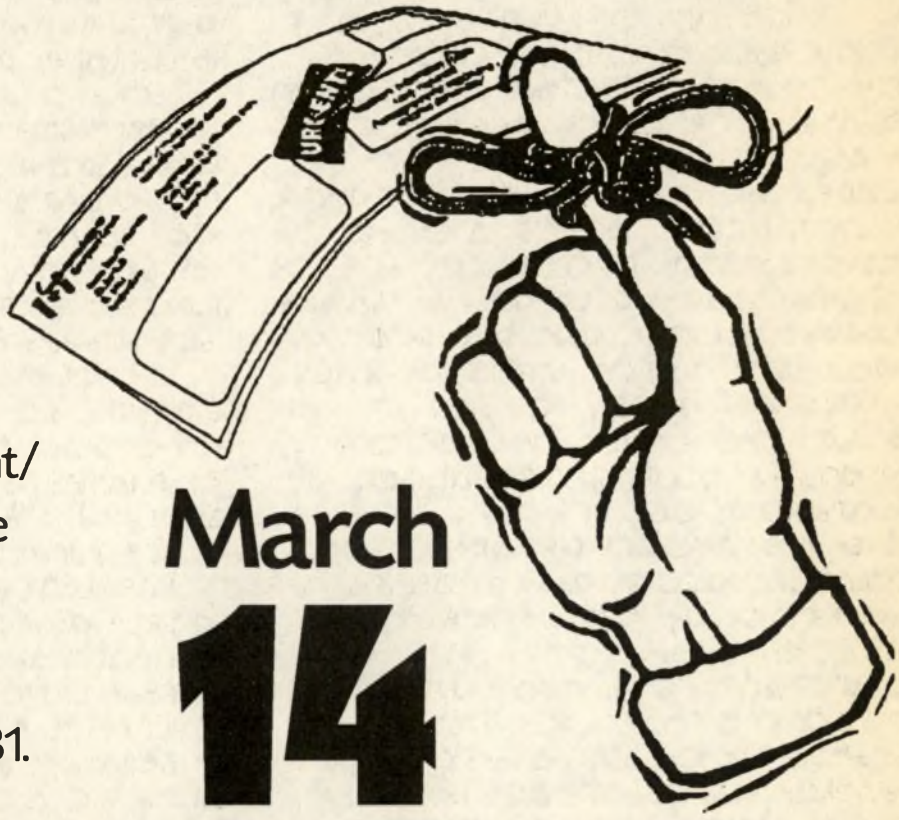
Human Resources Development Canada
Développement des ressources humaines Canada

# Old Age Security

## Don't Forget

to mail your Guaranteed Income Supplement/ Spouse's Allowance renewal form by March 14, 1997.

Deadline is March 31.




**March 14**

For faster telephone service, call Tuesday to Friday during the middle weeks of each month. Call us toll-free at:

**1 800 277-9914**

TTY/ Teletypewriter Users ONLY :
1 800 255-4786

To speak to an agent, call during our regular hours of telephone service:
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday

Canada

ᐊᖏᓂᒃᑯᓯᓚᓵ. ᑲᑎᑦ, ᐊᓯᒪᒋᐸᐤ ᐃᑎᖅ ᑭᐱᒥᒃᓴᓪᓕ. ᓇᑕ ᐊᐱᓂᒪᑦ ᐊᓂᔾ ᐊᐱᔨᖅ ᐊᐃᓐᑲᖅᑐᐊᒪᑦ. ᑭᐃᑎᖅᑕᓇᓐ, ᐃᐊᑕᐅᑦ. ᓂᖏᐃ, ᐃᓕᓪ. ᓇᓐᑕᒋᐸ ᓂᐃᑎᖅᑕᐅᖅ, ᐃᓕᓪ. ᐸᒋᓇᑎᖅᒪᖏᓐᐊ ᒪᑦ, ᐃᑕᐅᑦ. ᑲᓚᒪᑦ ᐅᔪᓪᓕ. ᐊᖏ ᐊᐱᖏᑎᑦ ᐊᓚᒪᑕᓂᖅ.

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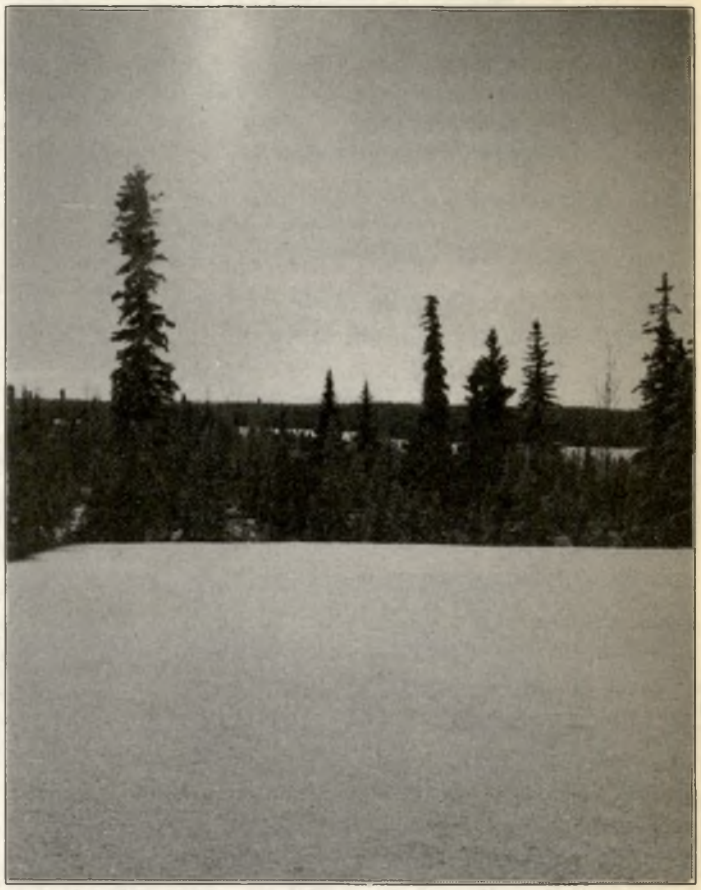
# The Quest for Summer

**Told by Andrew Natachequan**

**Transcribed and translated by Brian Webb**



PHOTOS BY NEIL DIAMOND

During the time of never-ending winter, a woman lived with her husband and their son. There was only the three of them. The giant cannibal named Chiihchiiuchaanish was very near. He didn't bother with those people except he wished he could live with that child. He thought, "I wish he could have many lice." And so that child really got lice. There were very many lice, even though his mother tried to kill them. She thought, "Well, it was the old giant cannibal who wished that on the child."

He was called Chiihchiiuchaanish. He wished the woman would tell her husband to leave their child and that the man would agree also. The cannibal thought, "I would take my grandchild." One day, the woman said to her husband, "Our child has many lice and I can't kill them. Let's leave him." Her husband agreed. He said, "Let's leave him."

In the morning, they got dressed. They abandoned their child. They didn't dress him. They removed the teepee coverings and the child cried. He occasionally ran to his mother while she was preparing the toboggan. The man had already left. Chiihchiiuchaanish was near. The child's mother left. He jumped on her toboggan. The woman noticed and she pushed him off. His feet got cold because he was not dressed. He ran back to the fire and warmed up.

Chiihchiiuchaanish emerged and ran to the child. The child shouted to his mother, "Mother, someone is running to me." Chiihchiiuchaanish said, "Grandchild, don't say anything. I will live with you. Your mother is the one who is a strange being, leaving you even when there is nothing wrong with you." He put the child next to his body and warmed him up. Chiihchiiuchaanish said to his grandchild, "We will never be far from the place where your mother is. We will always be very near her."

Chiihchiiuchaanish occasionally killed beaver. He cooked the small beavers for his grandchild. With the larger beavers, he said, "I will feed these to your mother." He simply kept the beavers. They had many.

Chiihchiiuchaanish said to his grandchild, "Your mother already misses you. She already wishes to see her child." He said, "We will go to your mother now." They went very near to their camp. The woman's husband left to go hunting. As soon as the man left, Chiihchiiuchaanish said, "Grandchild, go now. Go to your mother." At the wood pile, that was where the old man, Chiihchiiuchaanish, sat. He was very large.

The child entered the teepee of his parents. The woman exclaimed, "Here is my child." She asked, "Who brought you?" He answered, "My grandfather. I have been living with my grandfather." She asked, "Where is he?" She opened the door flap and there he was—sitting at the wood pile. She said, "My child is brought by a strange being." He said, "You are the strange being. You left my grandchild when there was nothing wrong with him."

Chiihchiiuchaanish said to the woman, "Daughter, prepare where my grandchild and I will live. I will live with my grandchild." She prepared their living area on the other side of the camp. He said to her, "I will not be this big. Once I enter the tent, I will be the size of Iyiyuu. That is how big I will be." He became very small, the size of an old man. He lived with his grandchild.

Chiihchiiuchaanish expected his son-in-law to arrive. He had a pot in which he used to boil people. He said to his daughter, "Place my cooking pot under the snow. The one that hunts for you will be afraid of it once he comes." She buried the pot under the snow.

Then the woman's husband arrived. She went to meet him. She said, "Our child has come. He lives with his grandfather. He is here inside." She told her husband who he was. She said, "He is very small and they also brought many beaver that he had killed for our child." The man entered and there was the old man sitting there. That was how they started to live with each other.

When they set up camp, Chiihchiiuchaanish simply broke the trees. He brought them back in one trip. He also got a lot of firewood instantly. That was what he did. He lived with them. One day he said, "Daughter, you will never order me to do anything." She agreed.

**Cont'd on page 17**

Philip Voyageur, Cree student from Mistissini.

# Philip Voyageur was bored at school. So we gave him a TV.

An agreement between Télébec and the Cree School Board in James Bay is helping countless students like Philip Voyageur receive their education via video-conferencing.

This state-of-the-art system is capable of transmitting more than 5,000 hours of post-secondary courses per year, virtually eliminating travel time for students.

Thanks to video-conferencing, Philip Voyageur is completing college, and he'll soon move on to university where he hopes to study business administration. How's that for quality viewing!

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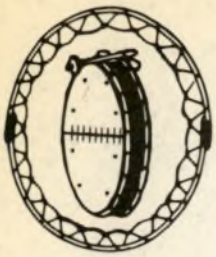

C.R.A.
A.R.C.

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**CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY**

**ADMINISTRATION REGIONALE CRIE**

**2 LAKESHORE ROAD,**
**NEMASKA, (QUEBEC) J0Y 3B0**

G.C.C.Q.

# 2nd Job Posting

**OPEN POSITION: Coordinator of the Cree Human Resources Department**
**LOCATION OF WORK: To be determined**
**COMPETITION NUMBER: CRA - 428**
**CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT:**
**2 year contract (possibility of renewal)**

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Estchee)/Cree Regional Authority is presently seeking a resourceful individual with strong leadership and supervisory skills. The Coordinator of the Cree Human Resources Development shall assist in the implementation of the "Agreement Respecting Human Resource Development for the Cree Eeyou Estchee", He/she will administer and monitor various programs designed to develop and support labour market resources in the Cree territory, seek additional sources of funding, and provide various employment services such as assistance to workers and to employers.

Reporting to the Director of Community Services, the Coordinator supervises the Department and oversees programs and services being delivered to the Cree communities.

He/she is responsible to ensure that all governmental reporting responsibilities are complied with and shall work closely with federal and provincial authorities, as well as Cree representatives and Cree entities, in order to achieve a coordinated approach to Cree Labour and Manpower programs.

**Employment Requirements:**

- College degree in a relevant field (Administration, Management);
- Five (5) years of pertinent work experience;
- Excellent oral and written communication in English; ***fluency in Cree is a requirement;***
- Willingness to live in a remote area and travel extensively.

Salary for the above position shall be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The GCCEE/CRA offers a benefit package which includes Group Insurance and Pension Plan.

***If you are interested and meet the requirements for this position, please forward your resume mentioning the competition number CRA-428 March 26, 1997.***

**OPEN POSITION: Cree Human Resources Department Program Officer**
**LOCATION OF WORK: To be determined**
**COMPETITION NUMBER: CRA - 430**
**CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT:**
**2 year contract (possibility of renewal)**

The Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Estchee)/ Cree Regional Authority is presently seeking a resourceful individual to assist local and regional employers in the Cree territory by developing training programs consistent with the Cree Human Resources Department program guidelines. Under the direction of the Coordinator of the Cree Human Resources Department, the holder of this position prepares and analyses requests for program financial assistance to the Cree Regional Authority for approval. This position also oversees and ensures compliance with program guidelines and recommends disbursement of program funds based upon such guidelines.

The successful candidate develops new programs to better serve the needs of the Cree Nation and provides assistance to local and regional labour market planning exercises. The person is this position works in collaboration with various entities, such as the Cree School Board, local Economic Officers and Director of Operations.

The candidate should have a College Diploma in a relevant field (Business, Administration) and three (3) years of pertinent work experience. Strong interpersonal skills and command of the English language, oral and written as well as accented computer skills (Database and spreadsheet). A willingness to relocate to a Cree Community is a condition of employment, and ***fluency in Cree is a requirement.***

Salary for the above position shall be commensurate with qualifications and experience. The GCCEE/CRA offers a benefit package which includes Group Insurance and Pension Plan.

***If you are interested and meet the requirements for this position, please forward your resume mentioning the competition number CRA-430 March 26, 1997.***

***Selection Committee, Cree Regional Authority, 2 Lakeshore Road, Nemaska, Quebec, J0Y 3B0***
***Telephone: (819) 673-2600 Fax: (819) 673-2606***

Once when they travelled, Chiihchiiuchaanish said, "Daughter, a beaver has been found. A lodge has been set aside for me." The woman didn't see any beaver lodge except for a small rock mound in the snow. She asked, "Where is the beaver lodge?" He said, "Daughter, here is the beaver lodge," referring to the rock mound. He closed off the exit, the way beaver is caught. He said, "Daughter, pound on the lodge." The woman pounded on it. He said, "Daughter, you're frightening the beaver. Stand here. I will approach it." He hit the rock mound himself. The beaver swam out into the open. The old man reached into the water and pulled out a beaver so huge she had never seen anything like it before. He pulled it out and clubbed it with a stick. "Daughter, this is only one and it is a little one," he said. But that beaver was huge! "Daughter, hurry up and build the camp, so you can cook for the one that hunts for you," said the old cannibal.

NEIL DIAMOND

The husband returned and was surprised to see this huge beaver. He said to his wife, "Where did your father catch that one?" She told him about the little lake and the little rock mound that her father referred to as a beaver lodge.

Then Chiihchiiuchaanish said, "Daughter, your hunter shouldn't leave. Go over to where the huge tamaracks stand, and chop down two trees. The giant cannibal named Walks Alone is coming toward us. He wants to kill us. I will go meet him. The first one to be hit will be me. It will be thunderous and you will hear it from far away. Then when you hear the last hitting noise, the one that hunts for you will ask, 'Is your father the one making that hitting sound?'" So the man and woman went to where the tamaracks stand and prepared the fighting area, chopping down two trees that would be used in the coming fight.

They went back to their camp and Chiihchiiuchaanish left for the battle with Walks Alone. After a while, the man and woman could hear him being hit. After a while, another hit was heard. The man asked his wife, "Is your father the one making that hitting sound?"

Chiihchiiuchaanish returned. He said, "Daughter, now go there. Go where I came from, over there where you chopped down the trees. You will see what I was hitting." There where the tamaracks were chopped down, Walks Alone was lying dead.

Chiihchiiuchaanish said, "Cut him up and throw him in every direction. You will say, be that small." They agreed. That was what they did.

Then one day, their dogs wouldn't stop barking at something in the distance. It probably wasn't ever summer where they lived. The woman said to Chiihchiiuchaanish, "Father, if you want to do some work, you should go and check what those dogs are barking at. It must be a porcupine." The woman was already working hard on something else. Chiihchiiuchaanish said to his grandchild, "Grandchild, your mother has ordered me to do something. I won't live with you anymore." His grandchild was holding on to him because he loved him. He said to his grandchild, "I can't live with you. Your mother has insisted that I do something." He pushed away his grandchild. He left for good. They never sensed his presence again.

The child cried all the time. The people thought he would die from crying so much. The child was heard saying, "If I shot summer birds, I would be happy." The people said, "Let's go get summer." A great number of people decided to join the quest to find summer.

Otter was told, "There will be many things we will encounter that we might not be able to overcome. Otter, don't come along because you like to laugh too much." He said, "I will come along because I feel sorry for the child crying." He was told by the people, "First, we will come to the one named Possesses Fat. With everything he does, he will fart. You will definitely laugh at him." Otter was determined. "I will not laugh at him."

The people went into Possesses Fat's home. The people all sat down. Possesses Fat reached for his container of fat and placed it in the center. As soon as he moved, he farted—*Boo*. With everything he did, he made that noise—*Boo, Boo*. He scooped his fat and farted every time—*Boo, Boo*. Otter really wanted to laugh now. Possesses Fat was handing out the fat to everyone—*Boo, Boo, Boo*. He hadn't even got to Otter yet, but he was already laughing and

**Cont'd on page 19**

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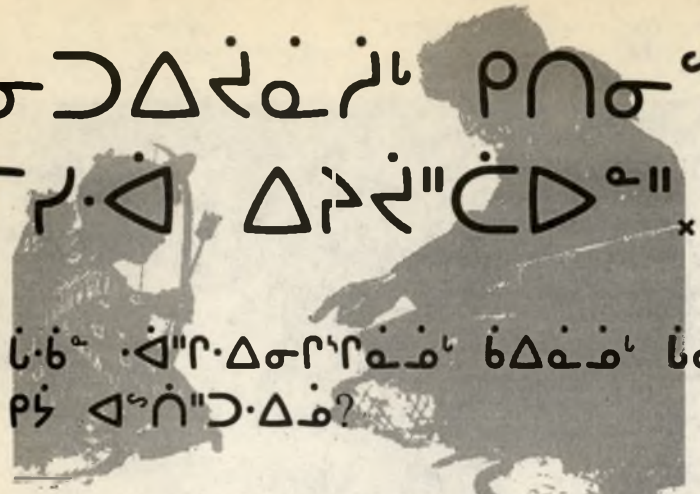

**THE CREE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION**
**CONSULTATION TOUR OF ALL COMMUNITIES**

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## ᑎᓂᔨᐢᐊᐅᓐᓄᑦ ᓂᑐᐃᓐᓇᓂᔨᓄᑦ
## The Trappers are coming to town!

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|---|---|
| ᐅᖁᐳᓂᔪᖏᑦ ᒥᑎᔪᐱᔪᑦ 14, 1997 | Ouje-Bougoumou- March 14th, 1997 |
| ᐊᐱᒪᓂᔨᓵᐳᖏᑦ ᒥᑎᔪᐱᔪᑦ 21, 1997 | Whapmagoostui- March 21st, 1997 |
| ᓄᒥᓴᖏᑦ ᒥᑎᔪᐱᔪᑦ 25, 1997 | Nemaska- March 25th, 1997 |
| ᐊᐳᓴᖏᐃᐅᓂᔨᓄᑦ ᒥᑎᔪᐱᔪᑦ 26, 1997 | Waskaganish- March 26th, 1997 |
| ᐊᐳᓂ ᓂᒥᑎᐢᑎᓇᖏᐃᓇᓄᑦ | Tentative dates |
| ᒥᓴᔪᓄᖏᑦ ᓂᔨᑐᐱᔪᑦ 2, 1997 | Mistissini- April 2nd, 1997 |
| ᐊᓴᐊᓂᐱᖏᑦ ᓂᔨᑐᐱᔪᑦ 3, 1997 | Waswanipi- April 3rd, 1997 |

## ᐊᐳᑎᒥᓂ, ᐸᑎᐊᑎᖏᐊᓂ ᓂᑐᐃᓐᓇᓂᔨᓄᑦ

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT THE TRAPPERS.**


ᐃᓕᓴᐃᔨᓂᑦ ᓂᒥᒥᐅᔨᓂᑦ ᐅᐢᑎᒪᔨᓴᑦ (ᔪᐯᖅ)
Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

ᐃᔨᔨᐤ ᑕᐸᔨᑎᓂᔪ
CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

had to run out of the teepee.

Possesses Fat sat there offended because he was laughed at. He didn't laugh and he wasn't farting. He took back all the food he had handed out to the people. Later, the people said to Otter, "Now, do you see? Otter, you are annoying us very much. We won't be able to get summer because of you."

The people said, "Let's cut our hair." They only cut their hair on one side and others cut it on the other side. They also made their faces red using ochre. This is how they disguised themselves. They said, "We will go in again. Otter, don't come along this time. Stay over there. We will tell Possesses Fat that one of our companions isn't coming, but that he should feed you anyway." Otter agreed. The people asked him, "How much will you eat when you are fed?" He said, "I will eat one length of the forearm."

As soon as Possesses Fat cut off a piece of his fat, he farted. *Boo, Boo.* The people were fed. They ate. They didn't mind him farting. The people said to Possesses Fat, "One of our companions didn't come. Feed him also." He agreed. They left after they ate. The people went to Otter and gave him his food. They all left.

They walked. They knew they were near where summer was. They saw Muskrat. He was swimming around there. The people said to each other, "Let's also feed Muskrat. Let's try to fool him. He will reveal where summer is." Muskrat swam out to the open water and dove. He surfaced. The people said to him, "Let's feed Muskrat our fat." They threw a bit of it to him. They asked him, "Do you like the taste of it?" Muskrat answered, "Yes, I really like it." They said to him, "Swim to us." They fed him. Muskrat really liked the taste of what he was being fed.

Muskrat said, "There is someone who will know what you are doing to me—feeding me fat. Speckled Trout is the one that is most intelligent." Muskrat said, "I am the one who stays up all night. I don't sleep during the night, so no one will steal our summer." The people said to him, "Wrap yourself in your blanket and you will sleep. Later, you will then gnaw on the canoes and the paddles. Early in the morning, over on that side of the lake, you will swim off with your uprooted stump. You will make it look like a moose is swimming. The people at your camp will say that a moose is swimming. The men will run to the shore to go to it."

As soon as Muskrat went in, Speckled Trout talked to him immediately. He said, "Muskrat has a smell of fat." Muskrat said, "Where would I find fat that I could eat? Those beaver apples made me smell like this. I discovered where there are small beaver apples. That's what made me smell like this." Speckled Trout said, "No. You smell of fat." Muskrat said, "I'm telling you that I don't smell of fat." Muskrat got angry. He wrapped himself in his blanket and slept.

The people went closer to the teepee that night. They were told that summer was hung at the back of the teepee. Muskrat had told them how the teepee was laid out.

Night Hawk was told, "Now, flap your wings and make a sound. Fly. Try to see where summer is." Night Hawk flew and perched at the smoke hole and looked in. Muskrat was told, "Look at that one looking in. You got angry when you were told that you smelled of fat. He must have been the one that fed you."

The people in the teepee didn't know if Night Hawk, who was sitting at the smoke hole, was really alive. They took the fire and pressed it to his nose. Night Hawk didn't move. The people said, "Be afraid, if you're alive." He didn't move. Then they didn't care.

Night Hawk flew back to his people. He said to them, "Look how they burned me. They know about me, but they still don't really know about me."

In the morning, Muskrat swam out with the uprooted stump. Then there was shouting going on. "There is a moose swimming," yelled the people of the camp where summer was. The men of the camp ran out of the teepee to the shore and jumped into their canoes.

Little Whitefish and Sucker were told to stay behind to stand guard over summer, which was hung up in the teepee. When the men were far out in their canoes, their paddles snapped. The people who wanted to take summer ran in to the teepee. Little Whitefish and Sucker had their mouths bound. Their summer was taken. The people ran away with it.

Little Whitefish bit through the binding on his mouth and shouted, "Our summer has been taken!" The ones in the canoes turned back and left what they thought had been a moose.

The people chased the group that stole the summer. The group said, "They are gaining on us. Otter, create a diversion. Stay here at the creek." He stayed there, showing himself occasionally. The ones who were chasing the group said, "Don't mind him. He must have been told to create a diversion."

Then they were gaining on them again. Fisher was told, "Cling on that tree." He clung on to a tree. The people shot their arrows at him. Speckled Trout still hadn't arrived. He was the one who was a good shot. The people said, "Speckled Trout has arrived." They told him, "Shoot him." Speckled Trout said, "I will shoot him. On the second shot, I'll hit him." With the first arrow, Fisher moved to the other side of the tree. Speckled Trout hit the tree. He said, "I will shoot him again. This will be the true one." He put his arrow in place and pulled his bow string. Fisher was hit and got stuck in the sky.

The people got very tired pursuing the group. They said, "Let them have summer. It will be summer on the other side now. We won't touch the summer you took from us." The group that wanted summer was very pleased. They went home.

Otter was still on the other side when they got home. When he finally returned, the people said, "Let's really try to beat Otter. Let's shoot him." They were mad because of his conduct during their quest for summer. He said, "Don't do that to me. When you shoot me, my blood will squirt and it will get in your eyes. You will not see. It will get back at you."

The people then said, "Let's make a fire and let's burn him. Let's make the fire big and throw him in the fire." Otter said, "Don't do that to me. I will thrash about and you that are standing around the fire will get burned. The fire will be flying towards you. It will get back at you."

The people said, "How will we kill him? Let's throw him in the water." Otter acted like he was very frightened. He said, "Don't do that to me. I'm very afraid." The people said, "Let's kill him that way."

They took Otter by his hands and feet to the edge of a little cliff. They swung him and threw him into the middle of the water. Otter disappeared.

Much later, Otter emerged in the middle of the water swimming around. They could hear him laughing. He said, "You tried to kill me in my element." The people couldn't kill Otter.

So the child stopped crying and was now shooting the summer birds. He had cried before because he missed his grandfather, Chiihchiiuchaanish. This is how he stopped crying and this why it is summer here on this side and winter on the other. We see it for ourselves. What was said is true. That is how much I know of him. That is how long the legend is.

**The Chief, Council and entire staff of the Cree Nation of Wemindji would like to acknowledge Chief Billy Diamond of Waskaganish on being a recipient of the 1997 National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Business and Economic Development! Congratulations, Billy! We are very proud of you!**

*The staff and members of the Kashechewan Band Council are proud to congratulate Chief Billy Diamond of the Waskaganish First Nation on being awarded the 1997 National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Business and Economic Development.*
*You truly deserve to be recognized for all your hard work and dedication!*

# *Congratulations!*

*On behalf of the Whapmagoostui First Nation, we would like to congratulate Chief Billy Diamond for having been awarded a 1997 Aboriginal Achievement Award. At times like this, it makes all of us especially proud to be members of Cree Nation of Eeyou Estchee.*

*Billy deserves and has truly earned this award because of his love for his people. His family needs to be thanked and congratulated for their support in all of his past and present endeavours.*

*We share the pride and joy of Billy's family and community in this special recognition that has been bestowed upon him. We're sure that this is not the only award and recognition that awaits a great leader whose endeavours are driven by love and caring for his fellow man and a firm belief in the spirit within.*
*Keep up the good work, Billy!*

# Congratulations

## to Chief Billy Diamond

On behalf of the people of the Nemaska First Nation, the Chief and Council would like to congratulate Chief Billy Diamond of the Waskaganish First Nation on his acceptance of

## The National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Business Leadership and Vision

The personal sacrifices that both you and your family have endured for the sake of the future of Iyiuushii are appreciated and we thank you for your inspiration and hard work.

# Judy Capissisit's story

**As told by Judy Capissisit**
**Edited by Marilyn Bearskin-Herodier**

Hello, my name is Judy Capissisit. What I'd like to talk about is my personal experiences. I'm an alcoholic and I'm 32 years old. I'm an adopted child. I remember the day I found out I was adopted. It was at school during recess and kids were telling me that my family wasn't my natural family. I ran home and I was crying. Then I asked my parents and they told me it was true and I didn't want to believe them. I felt angry and hurt. I didn't want to accept the fact that I was adopted. I never did until a few years later.

As a child, I did a lot of things a woman should have done. When I was around seven or eight, I was already starting to do housework, babysitting, fetching water etc... I was not allowed to have fun like the other kids. I didn't really have a childhood. When I was 16, I went to Waskaganish to meet my real family, hoping they would welcome me with open arms, which they didn't. I was hoping to live with my mother and father, but they didn't even ask me.

While I was in Waskaganish, I started to drink. Then I started to take drugs, just to numb my pain. I yearned to share with my parents the way I was treated as a child, but I had to keep it to myself until the age of 30. That was when I began to open up. When I was at that stage of drinking, I didn't care about myself. I didn't care who I hurt, because I was hurting inside and I didn't even realize that I was hurting others.

> "I didn't know how to love, because I wasn't shown love when I was younger. I didn't know how to hug..."

One time, I went to the Val d'Or tournament. I never went back home. I met this guy there. At first, I wasn't serious with him. I didn't know how to love, because I wasn't shown love when I was younger. I didn't know how to hug and I didn't know how to tell someone that I loved them. I had a hard time with that. When I met this guy, he was different. A year later we got married.

During eight years of my marriage, I had a hard time. I kept all of my experiences of being abused as a child from my husband. Not being able to share this with my husband, I became an angry person. In my marriage, we were always having these arguments, fights and constantly drinking. We thought drinking was a problem solver. I couldn't stay away from the bottle—it was very hard. In a way, it was the only way I could communicate with people and also my husband. My experiences of my abuses, I shared with my husband when we drank.

But he never believed me—he never listened. I cried a lot.

Three years ago, my husband beat me. I phoned the police. I wanted to press charges. The police came and found my husband hanging in our shed. He tried to commit suicide. But luckily he didn't succeed. The police took him. My husband came home five days later. While he was away, he blamed me for being in jail. But I guess at the same time, he had a chance to think. When he came home, he told me, "I need help. I'm going to seek help." Those were my exact thoughts. He and I went to see the community worker. We asked her to send us to a treatment centre together. We insisted that we wanted to go together. The community worker said she'd try. I explained to her that if one of us drank again, there was no telling what would happen. We were determined to change our lives. We left the community for a while and went in the bush.

Later on we left for treatment. The treatment centre was the best place I was at in my whole entire life. I shared, I finally spoke about all my abuses. You know, when you release everything inside of you, all your hurts, you feel so light. It's a good feeling, and it's also a good feeling when you go to treatment with your spouse. You fix your marriage at the same time as you begin to respect each other. At treatment, you learn forgiveness. You have to learn to forgive, because we can't change what happened to us.

I thank the Creator also for being a part of my life, because I know He's there and He watches over me and He guides me through my sobriety. I now feel good about myself. Also my husband thanks me for not allowing him to physically beat me. After pressing charges against him, it changed him.

In conclusion, a message to the women—you have to press charges against your husbands in order for them to realize what they are doing is wrong. I know it's hard for some women, but in the end, it helps your spouse and it helps your marriage.

I thank you for reading my story.

Judy and her husband have been sober since August 14, 1994.

When life seems dark... despair, no love,
the joy of alcohol, abuse by one's spouse... sometimes
suicide seems like the only option.
This story of courage
might not have had a happy ending,
if Judy had succeeded in the suicides she attempted.
Instead, Judy's story shows
that there is happiness, love and light
when someone takes control of their life.
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...but a creator of one's own destiny.

Anonymous

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September of last year residents of Eastmain took steps to help their community. Chief Kenneth Gilpin and seven other people walked a total of 710 kilometers to help raise money for a new community arena. Join **Maamuitaau** as we talk and walk with the participants.

**April 5 and 6**
Phasing out the leg hold trap and a treaty banning the sale of furs sold to European countries could present an uncertain future for some Cree residents. **Maamuitaau** talks with Harry Hughboy about his traditional way of life and the impact of this new legislation. Edward Gilpin, President of the Cree Trappers Association also addresses the issues.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
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3. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish photos returned.

**NOTE:** If you think your photo will make a good cover, please send an 8" x 10" (or larger) print.

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the Nation

# A Nation under seige: Lubicon Lake Crees fighting for a future

**By Sara Jean Green**

War is raging in this country but most Canadians have no idea where the battle lines are drawn.

A 10,000-square-kilometre patch of land in Northern Alberta is arguably the most valuable on the planet. It is no surprise then that huge multinational corporations—oil and gas, pulp and paper, and logging companies—have pushed for resources development. Diamond exploration may soon commence in the area. And the only thing standing in the way of full-scale "development" is a small nation of Native people—the Lubicon Lake Crees.

The history of the Lubicon is long and complex. First promised a reserve by the federal government in 1939, the Lubicon still do not have a land settlement agreement. Although they have never ceded any rights to their traditional territory, the Lubicon face constant pressure from the federal and provincial governments as well as big business interests that want to exploit the resource-rich area. Since 1980, over $7 billion in oil has been extracted from the land while the Lubicon themselves suffer extreme poverty.

"So far, the Alberta government has taken royalties worth $9 million off of Lubicon land and 95 per cent of my people are on welfare. We haven't benefited one cent from any government—except welfare," said Reinie Jobin of the Lubicon Lake Cree Elders' Council. "Today, we have alcoholism, suicide... and a very short time ago, my people were self-sufficient."

Up until the late 1970s, the Lubicon—isolated in their boreal forest home—were self-sufficient in their traditional hunting, fishing and trapping way of life. The first road into Lubicon territory was constructed in 1978. Since that time, the moose population, the staple of the Lubicon diet, has quickly declined. In 1979, 219 moose were killed compared to the handful caught last winter.

> "The Lubicon first met with government officials in 1939 who recognised them as a band and promised reserve land..."

Environmental pollution caused by oil and has companies have had dire effects on the people's health. Moreover, a newly constructued sour-gas processing plant—built a stone's throw from the Lubicon's proposed reserve sight—is a potential threat because an accidental leak of hydrogen sulphide could be fatal for the entire band.

According to Fred Lennerson, an Edmonton-based advisor to the Lubicon, there were 19 stillbirths out of 21 pregnancies from 1985 to 1986. Although the infant mortality rate has declined, the Lubicon still experience an uncommonly high number of still-births, spontaneous abortions, miscarriages, premature births and birth defects.

"It's a continuing problem but at that time, nobody knew if another Lubicon baby would be born alive," said Lennerson.

Asthma, skin rashes, various cancers and other health problems plague the community of **Little Buffalo**, located 600 kilometres north of Edmonton, east of the Peace River. Suicides are another big problem, and the community doesn't even have running water.

"Their people are dying. It's genocide," Lennerson said. "They are fighting to defend themselves—they are under seige. Not (fighting) is not an option."

### Canada's forgotten Nation

Because of the Lubicon's extreme isolation, they were overlooked when Canada signed treaties with First Nations across the Prairies between 1879 and 1908. Other aboriginal peoples in Northern Alberta signed Treaty Number 8, which Canada maintains resulted in the relinquishment of aboriginal title over land in exchange for reserves and hunting and fishing rights. In 1930, the federal government transferred large tracts of land to provincial jurisdiction through the Land Transfer Resources Agreement. The transfer included all land rights the federal government had obtained through Treaty 8. The Lubicon first met with government officials in 1939 who recognised them as a band and promised reserve land. Although a provisional reserve had been marked on the map, World War II intervened before a deal could be signed.

After the war, oil and gas companies were given authorisation by the Alberta government to begin exploration in and around Lubicon territory—without consultation or the consent of the Lubicon. Between 1979 and 1983, more than 100 gas companies

**Cont'd on page 25**

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drilled over 400 wells within a 15-mile radius of their community. Although the Lubicon have entered negotiations with both the federal and provincial governments three times in the last decade, talks have broken off because the parties involved have failed to agree on the size of the land mass and monetary compensation that should be allotted to the Lubicon Lake Cree.

**Fighting a giant**

The latest threat to Lubicon territory and way of life is Daishowa, a Japanese multinational pulp and paper company.

The Alberta government, between 1987 and 1989, issued 20-year cutting permits to numerous companies for over 221,000 square kilometres in the province. Daishowa received cutting rights to 29,000 square kilometres which includes the traditional territory of the Lubicon. The Daishowa-owned subsidiary, Brewster Construction, cuts up to 11,000 trees to produce 1,000 metric tons of pulp per day. Jim Morrison, media relations agent for Daishowa-Marubeni International (DMI), claims that the company harvests 0.3 per cent of the 29,000 square kilometres a year, which is "reforested immediately." "It's not like using up a resource," Morrison adds. "It's a renewable resource."

Jobin responds, "That's a bunch of crap—we live right there and they're not replanting. They're clearcutting."

The Lubicon Nation issued a cry for help in 1988 and has since received international support. It was at that time that DMI made an agreement with the Lubicon not to clearcut on their traditional land until a land settlement could be reached between the band and the federal and provincial governments—an agreement the company broke in 1990 when they sent contractors to start harvesting on Lubicon land.

In 1991, the Friends of the Lubicon, a Toronto grassroots organization, began a boycott campaign of Daishowa pulp and paper products. The Friends convinced 47 companies representing 4,300 retailers to stop purchasing products from Daishowa and its subsidiaries. Because of the boycott, DMI has refrained from cutting on Lubicon territory since 1991, but has refused to make a binding commitment not to cut until a land settlement is reached.

But the Friends' boycott also affected Daishowa Forest Products Ltd. (DFP), which operates smaller pulp and paper mills in Quebec and the Maritimes. Although owned by the same company in Japan, DFP director of corporate development Tom Cochran contends that his "company has nothing to do with Alberta." Daishowa Forest Products took the Friends of the Lubicon to court in Ontario and won a so-called interlocutory injunction on January 23, 1996 to stop the boycott and picketing. The injunction prevents anyone in Ontario, not just the Friends, from promoting a boycott of Daishowa products. A trial date has been set for this September, and Daishowa is suing three members of the Friends for over $8 million in lost revenues and damages. Environmentalists and civil-rights workers are calling the injunction and lawsuit an unprecedented attack on freedom of speech, and vow to fight the case all the way to the Supreme Court.

If there is a silver lining to the lawsuit, it shows that even the largest multinational is not immune from an organized protest campaign organized at the grassroots level. Daishowa's lawsuit and injunction have earned it a place on a list of companies with the world's 10 worst corporate records compiled by U.S.-based *Multinational Monitor* magazine.

A demonstration was held at Daishowa's Montreal office last week to commemorate the first anniversary of the Ontario injunction agains the Friends of the Lubicon. The action was organized by the newly formed Amitié Lubicons-Québec and Lubicon Elder Reine Jobin also attended. Jobin prsented a Daishowa representative with letters asking the corporation "to make a public commitment neither to cut nor buy trees cut on Lubicon land until a land rights agreement" is reached and to "drop the legal proceedings... against the Friends of the Lubicon." The Daishowa representative refused to comment.

In spite of Daishowa's silence, Jobin appreciates the support shown for his nation. "Daishowa doesn't like outsiders like the Friends of the Lubicon to expose them for what they are—a greedy multinational," he said. "The boycott of Daishowa has been a big moral boost for my people."

When asked what it is his people want, Jobin responded: "We want a land base with full compensation from the governments and corporations that have stolen our resources... (We want) to be self-sufficient again where we don't have to depend on welfare, where we won't be a burden to society. We want to give our children and our grandchildren and the ones not yet born a future."


**Ville de Val d'Or**

The mayor Ronal Tetrault and the Val d'Or council members would like to thank everyone who participated in the 1996 Annual Hockey and Broomball Tournament. It was our pleasure having you and we look forward to seeing you again!

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# NOTICE

# CREE SCHOOL BOARD POST SECONDARY AND ADULT SECONDARY-LEVEL OFF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

## We are now accepting applications for financial assistance for FALL 1997.

**The application DEADLINES for Financial Assistance for programs starting for Fall 1997 are:**

**APRIL 01, 1997**

**Application Forms for Financial Assistance are Available in the Following places:**

- All Cree Communities (at the Schools)
  See the Student Affairs Technicians or Guidance counsellors
- Adult Education Centres in the Communities of Chisasibi, Mistissini, Waswanipi and Waskaganish
- Cree School Board Post Secondary Offices in Montreal (1-800-463-7402) and Hull (1-800-567-9667)

**Send applications, along with required documents to:**


**CREE SCHOOL BOARD**
**Attention: Jane L. Blacksmith**
**277 Duke Street, Suite 200**
**Montreal, Quebec**
**H3C 2M2**

**1-800-463-7402**
**514-878-9995**


IMPORTANT NOTE:
LATE applications will not be accepted.

# Our history, our people and sharing

**William Nicholls**

I recently had the good fortune to be invited to the Cree Cultural Coordinators' meeting in Val d'Or on February 18-20th. The part of the meeting that I was interested in was the repatriation of Cree artifacts.

This would be bringing them back to a Cree museum or facility where they could be cared for by the people whose ancestors made them. The meeting was different from most I had attended before and not just because the majority of spoken language of the meeting was in Cree. It was because it included Elders as an essential part. As Robbie Dick put it during the discussion on the bringing home of Cree artifacts, "The Elders should be in charge of the coordinators. It shouldn't be the so-called experts. It should be the other way around."

Robbie Matthew, one of the Elders attending, said much the same, adding: "We need them back but we are not ready to receive them with the respect and honour they deserve." He went on to praise one of the presenters, an anthropologist from Trent University. She has traveled all over the world documenting and photographing Cree artifacts that Hudson Bay Co. traders and other explorers brought back with them. One of the most interesting pieces of information was the fact that Cree women wore hoods with amazingly beautiful designs on them. Cree men wore leggings with intricate and beautiful designs also. This was in addition to the gloves, bags and clothing that we saw during her slide show and presentation. When it was over Robbie Matthew had tears in his eyes as he honoured and thanked her. He told her that the work reminded him of his grandmother.

He went on to say that Crees have shared always and that our past history was never a written one but was oral and visual. That just looking at the work by our ancestors, it was obvious great patience was taken. That the work tells of Cree culture, the way of life back then and we should share this with others. Sharing was one of the gifts of the Creator and we need the works back but should always be willing to share them. As he was speaking tears came to the eyes of ths anthropologist.

Another Elder from Chisasibi who was over 100 years old remembered the hoods still being used. Other Elders liked the show and thanked the anthropologistfor it. Everyone felt that all Crees should have the chance to see the slide show to understand what is out there and to see our past alive once again.

One of the people who has been involved with the museum project is Kenny Mianscum, coordinator for Anischaaukaamikw. When the meeting was over I had a chance to interview Kenny and record some of his thoughts.

***The Nation*: One of the topics covered was repatriation, which falls under your mandate to start a Cree museum. Did you feel encouraged by the meeting?**

Kenny: Actually, I did. It really encouraged me because in the near future that's one of the things we'll be attempting to do, but it's a long process. That will be something we'll have to take on a year-to-year basis probably at the beginning because as everyone

**Cont'd on page 27**

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is aware we don't have a Cultural Institute in which we could house these artifacts that could be repatriated in the very near future. I don't know how long it will take us to do it but it is something we are already discussing.

**I know one of the basic things is that you have to look for money to get the building. What kind of money are we talking to get a proper facility?**

We're talking millions. The construction is approximately $8.4 million. On top of that we are looking for an endowment of $5 million. So you're looking at $13.4-million project. It can be done. I believe it can be done but it really requires participation of the leaders to start promoting the Cultural Institute. To begin introducing it in their meetings, in their gatherings and what-not.

So those are the things we need to do. It is a large project and it is something I believe the Crees can do and can achieve it. Because of their success in the past and they haven't failed yet up to today, so it is something I see that will be Cree-owned, controlled, planned and managed from the start. It will also be Cree-constructed.

**Are we looking at one main center and then branches in each community? I know this has been a concern of some leaders that artifacts found near their communities be displayed in those communities?**

Yes, this is a regional institute and we foresee that in the future the Cree communities will discuss their own concept of an institute for their artifacts for the people and visitors. But this one is a regional project.

**Have you considered a traveling show of Cree artifacts to different schools and different places?**

Well, I think in the very near future we'll be doing that, but above and beyond that we'll be doing some southern regions. When we discussed things and ideas of getting the money and things like that, it was one of the ideas of the working group and the other members who have been involved in the process.

**I noticed some of the Elders were saying that before we bring home some of these artifacts to the Cree territory from all over the world, we have to understand what we are bringing back.**

It is true we have to understand that and respect that also because we do not know the story behind each artifact. We need to understand that in order to promote it accurately. In order for us to do the right thing for that specific artifact, yes it is true that we have to respect it. It's going to take a while.

**One of the things I found interesting that I didn't know was the hoods that Cree women wore and some of the older women remember it. But these were the Elders who were at that meeting. Now isn't there a danger if we wait too long we won't have anyone left who would have some memory of what these did mean or what people wore in those days?**

Cont'd on next page

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It is getting to a point where we are questioning how far our culture has changed, how much of it has changed. We are in the process of encouraging the old traditional ways of making materials and equipment that we used back then. It is true that the art or embroidery of certain items is gone. It is no longer practiced today. Those are the things we feel if we can get hold of one item such as the hood and give it to an individual, then we could see if it could still be made today

But there are other things I see are missing in our culture right now due to being able to see what is in the museums through photos and videos. These are things we need to promote today because it is true if we don't start bringing back the old way of making traditional things, we will definitely lose it. We're going towards modernization in a lot of things we build, construct, embroider, sew, mend and those sort of things and the old way of doing things is no longer the art you see on certain artifacts. It's gone.

**Now one of the shows that was very impressive was the anthropologist from Trent University. It was amazing to find someone who has actually gone around, found and recorded where the Cree artifacts are and where they come from. She actually catalogues the Cree artifacts around the world. Will you be arranging for her to go around the communities to show what we lost and perhaps people could come forward with memories?**

We are planning to do something with her this summer if possible. We're trying to get her to come up and do her slide presentation to all the Cree communities. That might motivate and encourage the Elders. It might encourage the youth to see the importance of keeping their culture, their artifacts, the way it used to be. We are in the process of doing something for her to come this summer.

**One of the things I've noticed in the communities is the adopting of regalia from western tribes. It seems to be the most popular regalia around. Perhaps it would be nice to see Cree regalia. A traditional Cree look.**

Yes, it would be very nice because like I said we are starting to adopt other cultural ideas into ours and we expect it to be our culture. Which is not. Our culture was simple. We live with the land, and I don't think when we gathered we dressed up. I think we gathered as a traditional people with what was available to us at that time. That's what we wore. As far as I know we didn't wear feathers or colourful costumes. We wore simple things that we could use.

**Well, I don't know about that, some of those hoods looked pretty colorful to me?**

It was very. Yeah, I agree with that. The beadwork,. the embroidery and the amount of hours someone would have spent on that. That is something that is very beautiful. It was very nice.

# Where do we go from here?

During the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples conference I came across many Crees but because of space could only interview two. I chose Romeo Saganash, former Deputy Grand Chief, former Waswasipi Deputy Chief and present Waswanipi Band Councilor, as well as one of the speakers and one of the observers from the coast in the form of Chisasibi Chief Charles Bobbish. In both cases it was a pleasure to interview them and get their responses to the Commissions report.

***The Nation*: So did you enjoy the conference?**

Romeo Saganish: Yes and no, in the sense that most of the speakers had a limited time to say what they had to say. On the other hand, there were a lot people there I wanted to hear from. For instance, Thomas Flanagan (of the University of Calgary) was someone I went to listen to because although he has very radical positions towards Native peoples and issues. I think these people are necessary in these types of debates because at least then we can measure ourselves and our own positions based on what they think at the other extreme. I think it was good to have him there.

**Yes, this is one of those conferences where you heard both sides. So you think this is a good thing?**

Yes, but it has to continue, you know. I'm not too sure how all of us peoples, Canadian, Native, Quebecois or otherwise, how we all can maintain the momentum that's been created from November 21, when the report was tabled. I don't think the federal government or the government here in Quebec will react to the report at this time, whether negatively or positively. I think they intend to let it fade away. It's sort of a pity to see some of the leaders expecting some sort of response on the part of governments on this report. Which in my mind was just another way of expressing dependency on the governments.

**That was one of the questions I was looking at. Basically this is a Royal Commission, this is about as official as the government can get when looking at a problem. How can they just ignore it?**

Just imagine how difficult it is to get the governments to respect the Constitution and decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada, for instance. They have difficulty already respecting anything that is constitutional with respect to Aboriginal peoples. So imagine recommendations from a Royal Commission. I don't expect much from governments after this report. It's really up to the Aboriginal leaders and peoples to say that if they really believe in their rights, well I think they should implement them.

**What do you see as the Natives' strategies in the coming years as a result of this report?**

One of the things that a speaker said is that everything that has been said by practically every Aboriginal person in this country is in that report, especially the youth. So if you really believe in your rights, well exercise them. That's the only way you will achieve any meaningful change in our lives is to exercise the rights we believe are ours as Aboriginal peoples. So the real question should be asked not only by chiefs, but everybody should ask that question. What do we do from here? Where do we go from here? In my mind, for instance, if the Cree people are ready for a regional government, I mean a real one, with youth and Elder representation, then I think we should pursue that part of the recommendations. That's what I mean by taking the initiatives, taking advantage of everything that has been said on these issues for the past 20 to 30 years now. I think it is really up to us to say as Crees we are ready for this part of the report, which concerns the regional Aboriginal government. The Haida might say we are ready for implementing the arts and culture aspect of the report. I think there needs to be some leadership among aboriginal peoples. That's the only way we will get some mileage out of this. If we wait on the governments, I think we will be waiting for some time.

**Some Native leaders since the report has come out have prophesied violence in the wind so to speak if recommendations aren't followed up. Do you see this as part of the future?**

Well, you have to look at the report from a certain perspective. Again this report basically proves Aboriginal peoples' rights in their claims on specific issues. Some Aboriginal nations across Canada have argued that their resources belong to them and no one should be able to develop their resources on their land without their consent. We have seen violence happen because on the other side that has been not respected.

From the Crees' perspective we have been saying for the past 20 years that the resources and the land belong to us and no development can take place without Cree consent. Well, if that is the case I think we need to develop a position on resources and development. We all know how much forestry is making from the extraction of resources in our territory. We have done our home work. So it's really up to us to say we know how much money forestry is making, we know how much the governments are making from that part of development and this is how much we are asking for, this is how much we need and this is how much we are taking for it. Until someone from among the Cree chiefs or the Grand Chief can say this is how much we are going to take from that development, then people will consider the Cree position seriously. But it hasn't happened yet so we need to develop a position.

The last real position we have taken on matters that affect us as a people was in the early 70's when we produced a document entitled, "Our Land, Our Demand," in response to Bourassa's threat to harness all rivers in our territory. This is the last real position we have taken. I think we need another "Our Land, Our Demand: Part II" in the present context.

**What do you feel is the most important thing to come out of the Royal Commission?**

One of the things is that it provides a basis for proper develop for Aboriginal nations and peoples in this country and a proper relationship between them and the governments. It does not present a panacea in my view. We have to extract what you think is appropriate in your case. The Royal Commission is providing us with a tool. They've demonstrated we have a right to self-determination, a right to govern ourselves. We have a right to determine our own futures and lands. From there I think that should be the question we are asking ourselves... What do we do from here, where do we go from here?

**Interview II**

***The Nation*: So you were at the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples conference Forging A New Relationship. Did you feel it was important for people to attend?**

Chief Charles Bobbish: Well, the information I got I felt it was very worthwhile. I found it helpful because as a community leader I want to know what is happening with us and the rest of Canada. We share the same concerns, we share the same problems. And because of this I felt the information that was expressed by different leaders, different people was very helpful for me. It kind of opened my eyes to some of the things that I was not to concerned about. We have the same problems in our community. It brought to light everything.

**There were two different types of speakers there. Well, actually three but at times you could see the extremes of both sides of the coin. How did you feel about that?**

Well, I liked that. We have to hear from both sides of the coin. We have to hear what they feel is important for them. Some of them were looking at it from Canada's point of view and some from the point of view of the Aboriginal people. Which was very, very interesting sometimes to see what the rest of Canada was say with regards to the information that they received regarding the Native people across Canada. I felt that it was helpful to hear it from both sides because of this. This in fact, was the first time that I've gone to a conference where you hear both sides.

**Do you see any new strategies coming out of this for Native people?**

What I see happening is that if people could understand, if they want to understand the situation in our communities then they probably will be more supportive or at least more aware of what we are talking about. People are starting to understand that there are problems in Native communities.

One of the things that I seen happen at that conference was the thing they attacked was the amount of money spent to do the report and how much Canada's going to spend to improve the situation in Aboriginal communities.

**So you see one of the big hurdles that Natives have to encourage is the education of non-Native Canada?**

Yes, we have to educate the rest of Canada. We have to do awareness to make sure people understand why we are saying all these things. To understand why we need more money to improve the lifestyle of Aboriginal people across Canada. We are always talking shortage of funds. We can only do so much with the money that allocated to us from Indian Affairs or any other existing Quebec or Federal programs.

**What did you find was the most interesting part of the conference?**

I think the last part because there was a new direction when Ovide Mecredi, the National Chief, when he made his last stand. That was a concern that a lot of people had with regards to what is the next step, what is going to be the new direction to determine a new relationship with Canada and the provinces.

**One of the concerns that a lot of leaders mentioned, including Ovide Mercredi, is the potential for violence...**

That's the extreme part. That is the last resort, the last recourse we have. If people don't recognize there is a big need to recognize the needs of the Native people across Canada, some people are saying this is going to be our last stand. We've worked on this for a long time trying to get Canada to recognize this and they have never heard. Finally the opportunity came for people to discuss their concerns and views on what kind of relationship they want with the rest of Canada and how they can improve their situations in the community. You know that could be very sad if Native people feel this is the last stand, that this is the last recourse they have and I guess this is the last direction they are going to take.

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**Application deadlines are firm: March 31 and September 30.**

# CLASSIFIEDS

## 100-BIRTHS

**Congratulationss to my sister** Elizabeth Trapper on the birth of her new baby girl Alayna Star on January 23, 1997. Sorry I couldn't be there, but I wish I was. I can't wait to see you both. Miss you all terribly. With love, Anna, Tyra Lynn and Said

---

**We would like to congratulate** our champ Pierre Shecapio for being birthday to our grandchild on January 21. Marie dawn Wabin Visitor. Love and kisses from Grandpa and grandma and your uncle Hank. We love you big girl.

---

**Congratulations to my sister** Candice and to my brother in law John Abesh on the birth of their first son Chad Alexander born February 11, 1997 at 2:14 a.m. weighing 8.9. I love the four of you always and take good care of each other. Love, always, Alice Jody Mattawashish.

---

**Congratulations to my cousin** Jennifer and her husband Rodney Petawabano on the birth of their first son Rodney Cody Frank born February 11, 1997 around 7:00 p.m.. I would also like to send my congratulations to my uncle Henry and my aunt Bella on the birth of their first grandson. Love, Alice Jody Mattawashish.

---

**My friend Elizabeth** Trapper and Allan Otter eyes are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter Alayna Starr Kelsey T. Ottereyes. Born on January 23rd, 1997 at 5:55 p.m., weighing 7 lbs. 3 oz. Proud grandparents Boyce and Flora Trapper and Henry and Harriet Otter eyes. P.S. Legibee, take good car of your little one. Love in friendship, Hattie Longchap.

## 101-BIRTHDAYS

**Happy birthday** to the following: Floyd Hester on Feb. 14 and to Bert Hester on Feb. 26 and I would like to say Happy Valentine's day to Jack D. and Christopher Hester. I love you both. From Barbara D.H.

---

**I would like to wish** my son Walter a happy 5th birthday on Feb. 10. Happy birthday and many, many more to come. I love you so much. Love, mom.

---

**To Ruth Jolly. Happy 18th birthday, March 15th. These are my sincere wishes for you today...I wish you love and comfort... the feeling that comes from knowing how much others care for you, the support of knowing there's always someone you can call if you need to. I wish you hope...the strength that comes from knowing that not even storms of life can last forever, the power that comes from believing in the possibility that happiness lies ahead of you.**

**I wish you peace...the calm that comes from surrendering your worries and problems to a greater power. Enjoy your day and don't ever forget that my love for you and Jasmine grows deeper...Love you 4-ever!! Your aunt and friend, Emma.**

---

**Happy birthday to my brother** Stanley Shash on March 6th, 1997 and also another birthday wish going out to Diana on March 15th, 1997. From Bernice W. and family. xoxoxoxo

---

**Happy birthday** to my daddy Allen M. who will celebrate his birthday on February 12, with me. We love you very much. Hope you'll stay with us. From your one and only beautiful daughter, Alyssia Happyjack. xoxoxoxo

---

**Happy 5th birthday** to my huggable, lovable, handsome nephew Ryan Vernon Jesse Gilpin. His birthday is on Jan. 22, 1997. Wishing all the best as you celebrate your special day and I hope you'll grow all at little taller as you blow your five candles cause your little baby brother is almost is the same height. Anyways happy birthday and many more to come. With all my love, your aunt Louise.

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Money order payable: Beesum Communications. *The Nation* reserves the right to modify or refuse a classified. NOTE: We cannot ensure the accuracy of all classifieds.


**Belated birthday wish** going out to my mother and grandmother Daisy House on January 1st. Happy birthday and happy New Year! With love always, Jessie and Billie Jean.

---

**Wishing a very happy birthday** to our beautiful and wonderful granddaughter Alexis mark on Jan. in first place in the old timer category in Mistissini. We never thought you would make it this far again but you did it again! Most valuable player, Amazing! and also congratulations to Eddie Metabie for being the best goalie. Wishing you both the best of luck in the next coming years tournaments. From your teammates.

---

**Happy birthday to our daddy** Mervin Cheezo on Feb. 28, 97. We love you. from your daughter Mervina and your son Marvin. Happy belated birthday to my sister Colleen Georgekish. She celebrated her birthday on Feb. 20, 97. Sorry I couldn't be there. P.S. I love you and I miss you and hope to see you soon. Fr. Jolene G. Chis.

---

**Happy birthday** to Laurie Loon on February 17, Elizabeth Trapper on February 20, John Max on February 24

# CLASSIFIEDS

and to my sweet funny dad Boyce Trapper on March 1st. We miss you all and think of you always. With lots of love, Anna, Tyra Lynn and Said.

**Happy 13th birthday to our brother Randy P. Weistche on March 14, 1997. Hope you have a wonderful birthday and many more to come. May all your dreams come true and we love you. From your sisters, Carrie Ann and Charity (Wask.)**

**Belated birthday** greeting to my brother Jimmy on February 13. So, how did you like your cake? Many happy returns on the day and many more to come. From your sister Margaret, Chisasibi.

**Wishing my mom Nellie** a very happy birthday on Feb. 24. Enjoy your day and many more to come...Mom, I love you. From Margaret.

**To Samantha.** Feb. 27) happy birthday to you. Hey Samantha I dance better than you. Ha! Ha. If you need a dancing lesson come over next door...Anyways, enjoy your day. From your next-door neighbor. C 1-15.

**Belated birthday greeting** to Nellie Snowboy ion February 15. Happy birthday Nellie! I have fifty cents, do you have a big brother for sale? Hope you enjoyed your birthday party. From Margaret.

**Happy birthday** to David Shem in Great Whale. Hi David, how are you? We hope you will have fun on your birthday. Remember us? From your secret admirers. P.S. don't party too much. C yaa!!

**Happy 14th birthday** to our friend Roxanne. her birthday was on Feb. 7. May all your dreams come true. From Beejan and Bannick.

**Happy 14th birthday** to a party girl in Val d'Or Melanie D, Gilpin on February 11, 1997. We hope you had fun on your birthday but don't party too much. From Roxanne and Lucy. P.S. See you in Val d'Or tournament.

**Happy first birthday** to a very special boy Lee Otter on January 31, 1997. We love you and miss you a lot. From Love always, Kimberly Happyjack. xoxoxoxo.

**Belated birthday** greetings going out to Darryl Hughboy, Wemindji whose birthday was on February 15. happy birthday son and many more to come. be happy always. remember the road ahead is not as not as you may think and there will be many obstacles for you to overcome. My advice to you is to take it one day at a time and the good lord will always be with you. love, mom. Wemindji.

**Happy birthday** to my special sister Lillian Blackned (March 31) I wish you all the best that you deserve. have a great day and a great year. Love always, your sister in North bay.

**Happy birthday** to my aunt Michelle on March 01, 97. may your day be as special as you are. Don't even think of partying! Just kidding. P.S. I'll see you soon. Love and friendship, Cheryl LB in Mist.

**Happy birthday** to my husband Johnny on Feb. 11, 97. Though you rarely hear me say this, "I love you.", "Je T' aime, "Chisaschihetin." May you have a wonderful birthday and many more to come. Love always, Gloria.

**Happy belated birthday** to two of my special friends in Mistissini, Minah Matoush on Feb. 11, 1997. And Elizabeth Trapper on Feb. ?? 1997. Once again happy belated birthday and many more to come. Minah, please call me collect. I haven't heard from you in a long time. Love in friendship, Hattie Longchap

**Happy birthday** to a friend in Waskaganish Shannon salt on march 18. happy birthday. whatever you have planned on that day hope you have fun. (Don't forget to invite me! kidding!) Have fun and don't get too drunk or you'll forget half of your party! (ha, ha ha) From friend Barbara.

**Happy birthday** to our uncle Stanley Shash on March 6th, 1997 and to our mother Bernice Weistche on March 15, 1997 and also another birthday wish going out to our cousins Diana Shash on March 15th and Stacy Swallow on March 25, 1997. With lots of love, hugs and kisses from Alex and Benita W.

**Birthday greetings** to my sisters Hilda Swallow on March 16th and Donna Dick on March 23, 1997. With lots of love and hugs. From your sisters at 39 Bush Road. P.S. Don't party too much.

**Happy birthday** to my friend in Mistassini, Nina Metabie on February 26, 97. From your friend Lori Chakapash in Montreal. P.S. my postal code is H9W 6C9.

**Happy birthday to my big brother Randy Weistche on March 14, 1997. Wishing you all the best on your birthday and may God bless you in a very special way. Love always, your little baby brother Marcus C. Weistche.**

**Birthday greetings** going out to our dad Johnny Tomatuk on Feb. 11, 97. Though we give you hard times, we love you dad. But you have to admit there are good times too, right? Love, Shawna, Sheldon, Katherine and Sherry Ann.

**Happy 18th birthday** to my friend in Nemaska Cynthia Blackned who will be celebrating her birthday on February 22, 1997. Happy birthday Cynthia! Take care! From friend always, RL (Mist)

**Happy birthday** to my nephew in Chisasibi Erland Longchap on February 12, 1997. Erland take care of your little brother Daniel. happy birthday and many more to come. I love you so much and I miss you a lot. Love, auntie Rachel (Mist).

**Birthday wishes going** out to my cousin Lillian martin hunter (Chis.) on February 24. She will be turning 13. I hope you'll have a lot of fun on your teen years. From your cousin Rachel MH (Chis.) P.S. Love in friendship.

**Happy 18th birthday** to my special friend Marlene Jolly on the 25th of February, 1997. Wishing you all the best as you celebrate your special day. Hope your wishes and dreams come true. may the good Lord be with you always. Friend always Rebecca.

**Happy birthday** to my nephew Jeremy Rabbitskin on the 22nd of February, 1997. Being with you makes my life complete. I love you with all my heart. May the good Lord bless you on this special day. Love always, auntie Rebecca.

**Happy 1st birthday** to somebody very special in my life, my nephew Ricky Ross Mark Garet Jolly B/ned in Amos you bring happiness and joy in my heart. I love you so much and to Jonathan and baby Tyler. from Auntie Cynthia.

**Happy birthday** and many more years to come. To our dearest friend Mary Lou Georgekish on March 29, 1997. Hope you have fun on your birthday and remember don't party too much. From your friends Rena and Sara Lee (Wemindji)

**Happy birthday** to my husband Mervin on February 28, 97. I love you with all my heart. Love always, your wife Beverly.

**Guess what sis?** It was your birthday and I almost forgot. Well, better late than never uh! Emma I'm sorry I wasn't there to wish you a happy birthday but I still hope you had fun at DJ's, your favorite place. I still can't believe that you turned 21 on the 27th of January 96.. From all the Bearskins and especially your brother Sebastian Bearskin from Chisasibi. P.S. I couldn't be there but I called you. Write me sis you know where I am.

**Happy birthday** to a friend of mine, Samantha Sealhunter. She will be celebrating her birthday on February 27, 1996. Thank you for always being there for me when I needed a friend. You're such a nice friend. Have a great time on your birthday. Hope all your wishes and dreams come true! It was great to spend some time with you when I was in Chisasibi. tournament. Well any ways have fun and don't party to much! From your friend always Melinda P/.S. take care.

**Happy birthday** to a wonderful sister Jane J. Neeposh on Feb. 21. In this

# CLASSIFIEDS

changing world, it's nice to know that one thing is forever You'll always be our sister! Have a great day! Love, Cindy and Stacy.

**Birthday wish to a special son Randy Weistche who will be celebrating his birthday on March 14, 1997. It seems it was only yesterday that you were born, oh boy you've grown so fast. We remember the first time we held you in our arms and looked into your eyes. You made us proud parents, but you are now thirteen years old. The world is waiting for you. Please be careful and always remember we love you very much. Love always, mom and dad (Roy and Maria) (Wask.)**

**Happy 13th birthday** to a special girl named Angelina Gunner on March 7. From your boarding home parents, Raymond and Judy Capissisit.

**Happy 15th birthday** to our daughter Jane on Feb. 21. May your memories on this special day become as cherished as those you've given to us. We love you mom and dad.

**Happy 18th birthday** to my sister Jane J. Neeposh on Feb. 21. May love and happiness be today's gifts to you. happy birthday! Love, Uriah.

**Hello grandpa Boyce! I** would like to wish you a happy birthday! I miss you and I love you a lot! Your l' il angel Tyra Lynn Trapper (Habonne)

**Happy birthday** to my father Johnny on Feb. 11 and to my dearest mother Gloria on Feb,. 27th. Hope you guys have fun on your birthdays (I know I would) Just that not much fun, okay??? May God cherish the things you have done for me. I love you both So happy birthday and many more to come. Boy, you guys are getting old. Love you both! Fr. Shawna T.

## 102-WEDDINGS

**Congratulations** to Billy Georgekish and Susan Mapachee on their upcoming wedding on March 1st in Val d' Or. From your friends, Henry, Bernice, Alex and Benita Weistche (Wemindji) P.S. Send us a wedding picture.

## 103-ANNIVERSARIES

**Happy anniversary to my parents** Peter and Rosie Wapachee on Feb. 23. I couldn't miss this day to wish you both a nice day and to wish you a lot of love.. Mom, dad, curl up together in a comfortable place and remember the good old days. Love you both, your daughter, Charlotte Petawabano.

**Happy 10th anniversary** to our friends Judy and Raymond Cap. on April 11th 1997. We just want to let you two know that we are very proud of you's and lucky to have friends like you. W have seen some of the hardships you two went through these past years and still overcame them, for that we admire you's a lot. Friends always, Helen and Larry Jr. and Joshua.

## 300-PERSONALS

**Happy valentine's day** to the two most important people in my life Delicia and Darryl Hester. I love you both so much and I would also like to wish my family a happy Valentine's day. God bless you all. Love, deborah C.

**Hi to Benny Blacksmith** in Waswanipi. I love you with all my heart and soul and don't ever forget that. From me. You know me.

**Hello to these guys in** Chisasibi, Matthewww S., Jonathan N., Freddy N., Charles L.. How are you guys doin. We always think of you and we will see you at the Val d'Or tournament. We want to see you guys and you are very special to us and this is the first time we felt someone like that and we meet the right persons. From: always Monique sag. Rachel D., Daisy Happyjack and Clara Ottereyes. Take care of yourselves. See yah! Waswanipi.

**Aulpas, we met in Val d'Or on Valentine's night. I really had a good time with you. Let's do it again someday. U R so cool and my friend thinks so too. Hope to see you again someday. From Ton amie.**

**Hello** and a happy Valentine's day to the students in North Bay, Ont. CE, TT, MW, DG, LK, CS, DE, MB, JS. Those who are from Waskaganish and the other killers from elsewhere. P.S. Don't go out until you finish your homework! From guess who. Ex North Bay students.

**A message going out** to Willie Bosum from Ojay. Hey! Willie, remember me? One of the Asimautaq volleyball players. I just would like to say hello to you on the volleyball tournament in GWR. The one who shake your hand outside the gym. I hop we will meet together someday and somewhere and talk to each other. Someday. From your secret admirer.

**Hi to my friends** in Chisasibi. Joni-Lee Tapiatic, Sarah Ottereyes and Jasmine Hester from Waskaganish. Also to Deidre Blackned and Leona Cheezo in Wemindji. What's up girls? Please write to me as soon as possible. Please? From RL, #168 St. John's Street, Mistissini Lake, Que. G0W 1C0.

**Aulpas, I think I love you! I think I need you! First time I saw ya, felt like I never loved before. Really had an enjoyable day and night. I think that not only are sweet and a natural man but you make me go boink! Love, you Moonakee.**

**Please take notice** that Judy Rita Otter residing at 8 Cedar, Waswanipi, Quebec will present to the director de L'etat civil a request to change the name of her son Ritchie Ronnie Samuel otter to Harry Richard Samuel Otter. Waswanipi, 19th day of February, 1997. 11324-31-2. Judy Rita Otter.

**John R. Ottereyes.** I wanna know where you are? I haven't heard from you since I took you back to Waskaganish. call me at 8:19 and 8:55 on the 27th of 99 (try to figure this out) from your friend J.

**Just wanted to remind** someone special that I miss him and love him with all my heart. GSS in Wask. I wish we could be together everyday. I hate being away from you. Hope you come back soon. Love ya BRH.

**This is going out** to someone who's in my thoughts everyday and I just wanted you to know that I miss you so much. We've through many hard times together in our lifetime together when I was going bad you were there for me and that very hard moment in your life I never gave up on you and I was there to do anything for you 100% all the time no matter what happens and Jennifer I hope I I'll see you soon when I come back home the first person I'm gonna go see is Angel. From your little brother SB. P.S. Write me OK I'm expecting a letter from you!!!

## TOP TEN VIDEO RENTALS

This list is based on rentals from Orr's Video in Nemaska, with comments in quotes by Roger Orr, proprietor.

1. **Fly Away Home.** "Makes you trigger happy"
2. **Last Man Standing.** Bruce Willis, remake of Kurosawa film **The Samurai.**
3. **If These Walls Could Talk.** Demi Moore Cher, Sissy Spacek.
4. **The Fan.** Sports thriller with Robert DeNiro and some guy.
5. **Eddie,** Whoopi. Dennis Rodman. Whoopi Goldberg coaches a big league basketball team.
6. **Bullet,** Mickey Rourke, the late Tupac Shakur.
7. **Jack.** Robin Williams star as kid trapped in adult's body.
8. **Bogus,** whoopi again.
9. **First Kid,**
10. **Phenomenon,** John Travolta discovers he has supernatural powers after encounter.

*Recommended: **Trainspotting.**

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